

## Fleet Authority Monthly E-News

November 2009

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### Hours and Info:

#### Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday  
9:00 AM Until 6:00 PM

#### Virginia State Safety Inspections

All Makes & Models -  
even buses & large trucks  
9:00 AM until 5:00 PM

#### All Major Credit Cards Accepted



#### Contact Us

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Fax: (703) 691-2102  
Email: [info@fleetauthority.com](mailto:info@fleetauthority.com)

Fleet Authority website:  
[www.fleetauthority.com](http://www.fleetauthority.com)

#### Find Us:

3170 Draper Drive,  
Bay 10  
Fairfax, VA. 22031

#### Map/Directions:

Find Fleet Authority [Here](#)

### Keep Your Vehicle On the Road with Fleet Authority's Quality Repairs

- Servicing all makes & models of American and Import automobiles
- Specializing in commercial bus & truck repairs
- Custom monthly maintenance plans available
- Full service facility with on-site repairs
- After hours key drop

### Beware- Flood Cars Abound

Major hurricanes have devastated the southern coastline of the United States with flooding. One major problem impacting the auto industry is a HUGE number of used vehicles from these flooded areas being re-sold. These used cars are generally known in the business as "flood cars." Flood damaged cars do not sell well in their home areas since buyers are aware of the risks...so flood cars are shipped out of the flooded areas to other urban regions to be sold to unsuspecting purchasers.

*What is the big deal about a car that got water inside it if it seems to run just fine?* Flood waters can destroy electrical components and vehicle wiring. There is a ton of complex wiring under the hood, in the dashboard, and under the carpeting of the vehicle. When water gets inside a vehicle, the vast network of wiring under the carpet gets soaked. The carpet can easily be replaced, but the wiring is usually complex, and therefore too expensive to replace. So, scammers install new carpet concealing potential damage.

So what happens if the wires got wet? Rust my dear friend. Rust is your enemy! Once flooded, the wires slowly break down, and rust forms on any part of the wire that is not protected. As electricity travels inside these wires and makes contact with this rust, it will make a ground causing the electricity to stop traveling. Whatever component the electricity was traveling to, a fuel pump for instance, will soon stop working. Finding the trouble spot in the miles of vehicle wiring can be costly.

In many cars, the onboard computer system is located in the lower part of the dashboard area only inches above the carpeting. In some vehicles the computer is located under the passenger seat. If the computer system gets wet, not only will it need to be replaced, it can damage many other electrical components as well. The rust and its impact create a domino effect. One sensor after another will fail, intermittent electrical problems will begin to happen, and your pocketbook will soon start to feel the ill effects of multiple monthly mechanic visits. Some call "rust" the cancer of automobiles, you have to keep cutting and cutting and cutting to stop its growth.

#### Spot a Flood Car Yourself:

- Inspect under the driver and passenger seats for obvious signs of rust on the seat tracks and metal seat frame.
- Look at the headliner (the fabric on the roof inside the car). Once wet, the glue that holds this fabric in place will begin to weaken, and the fabric will begin to fall down completely, or will fall in small sections that will look like bubbles.
- Use your nose. If the inside of the vehicle smells damp and moldy, or feels damp to your skin...run!

If the car passes these initial tests, then consider a professional inspection before you buy. Fleet Authority offers 47 point pre-purchase inspections that entail evaluation of the undercarriage, braking system and exhaust systems to ensure there isn't significant rust damage.

### November Discounts

For easy printing download the attached coupons



**47 Point  
Pre-Purchase  
Inspection**

**\$ 99.00**

Coupon Valid Until December 31, 2009

### First Time Customer Coupon

**10% discount on labor and parts**

With your first visit to  
**Fleet Authority**



Keep more **MONEY** in your wallet, on your next repair

Discount good on all makes and models of  
commercial & personal vehicles

Coupon Valid Until December 31, 2009

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Questions or Comments? E-mail us at [info@fleetauthority.com](mailto:info@fleetauthority.com) or call 703-691-2100